



City of Lorena
107-A S. Frontage Road
Lorena, Texas 76655
(254) 857-4641 Fax (254) 857-4118

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING AND PUBLIC HEARINGS
LORENA CITY COUNCIL
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2023, 6:30 P.M.
LORENA CITY HALL
107-A S. FRONTAGE ROAD, LORENA TEXAS

THE PUBLIC WILL BE ABLE TO JOIN THE MEETING BY VIDEOCONFERENCE
AT THE FOLLOWING LINK <https://meet.goto.com/426485765>
The City Council Meeting will be opened to the public.

Questions and comments on items listed on the agenda may be emailed no later than NOON on the day of the meeting to the City Secretary Monica Hendrix via email to mhendrix@lorenatx.gov

MINUTES

1. Call to Order/Roll Call.

Mayor Ross called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. Council members present were Mayor Tommy Ross, Jason Blanek, Katrina George, Emily McKenzie and Brad Wetzel. Kelly Yarbrough was absent.

City Staff present were Monica Hendrix, Scott Holt, Kyler Jones, Linda Klump, Kevin Neal and Peter Rivas.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Ross led the pledge.

3. Citizens questions or comments.

At this time any person with business before the Council not scheduled on the agenda may speak to the Council. Comments are limited to three (3) minutes, and this time is not transferable. Under the Texas Open Meetings Act, the Council is prohibited from discussing, responding, or acting on any comments or items that have not been properly posted on the agenda. This forum is limited to a total of 30 minutes.

City Secretary Monica Hendrix read an email to the council from local citizen Kim Sloan over concerns with the road construction and holding area of dirt and equipment across the street from her home at 726 Williams Road.

4. Approval of Minutes:

- a. August 21, 2023
- b. August 28, 2023

MOTION: Katrina George moved to approve the August 21st and August 28th council meeting minutes.

SECOND: Emily McKenzie

FOR: Blanek, George, McKenzie and Wetzel

AGAINST: None

ABSENT: Yarbrough

Motion carried 4-0

5. Committee and Corporation Reports:

a. Lorena Economic Development Corporation

Brad Wetzel reported meeting and Mayor Tommy Ross was present to discuss with the corporation calling an election in May for the purpose of re-allocating a portion of EDC sales tax to provide revenue for maintenance and repair of municipal streets. They also discussed the EDC Consultants contract but stressed they did not go into executive session but contacted the EDC attorney for the discussion. They tabled reviewing applications for the vacant board seats. There are three vacancies at this time.

b. Lorena Planning and Zoning Commission

No meeting.

6. Discussion and possible action on Ordinance 2023-0918-01 approving the updated terms of the Atmos Engery Corporation Franchise Agreement with the City of Lorena.

Tammie Bowman with Atmos Energy was present and explained the terms of the agreement.

Bowman explained the agreement is very similar to the previous agreement and the franchise fee is 5% as before. This franchise agreement is good through 2048.

MOTION: Brad Wetzel

SECOND: Jason Blanek

FOR: Blanek, George, McKenzie and Wetzel

AGAINST: none

ABSENT: Yarbrough

Motion carried 4-0

7. Discussion and recognition of new employee, School Resource Officer, Samantha "Sami" Bull.

Chief Scott Holt introduced Samantha Bull to the council and gave a little background on her.

City Secretary Monica Hendrix gave the Oath of Office to Officer Bull.

8. Discussion and possible action authorizing the City Manager and Chief of Police to enter into a contract with the Lorena Independent School District for a fourth School Resource Officer.

Chief Scott Holt informed council the Lorena Independent School District has agreed to fund a fourth School Resource Officer for an amount not to exceed \$100,000.00. Holt explained if the cost exceeds the \$100,000.00 and he will spend the money from the forfeiture funds. Holt also explained he already has the position filled and they will start on September 25th.

MOTION: Katrina George moved to authorize the Chief of Police and City Manager to enter into a contract for a fourth SRO.

SECOND: Brad Wetzel

FOR: Blanek, George, McKenzie and Wetzel

AGAINST: None

ABSENT: Yarbrough

Motion carried 4-0

9. Discussion and possible action on authorizing the City's Investment Officers to research and establish business accounts with Ebay and PayPal for the Police Department to purchase used equipment and establish a separate limited account with our depository bank as a funding source for the PayPal account.

Linda Klump explained this account will only be tied to one Extraco account. This account will be used to buy used police equipment. The expenditures cannot exceed \$7500.00. At this time the account will only be used for the Police Department.

MOTION: Jason Blanek

SECOND: Katrina George

FOR: Blanek, George, McKenzie and Wetzel

AGAINST: none

ABSENT: Yarbrough

Motion carried 4-0

10. Discussion and possible action accepting a donation to the Lorena Police Department from Quality Air Care for support of the K-9 department.

Kevin Neal explained donations have to be accepted by council approval due to Lorena having no donation policy. Moving forward Neal will put together a donation policy for council approval.

MOTION: Jason Blanek motion to accept the donation from Quality Air Care.

SECOND: Brad Wetzel

FOR: Blanek, George, McKenzie and Wetzel

AGAINST: none

ABSENT: Yarbrough

Motion carried 4-0

11. Proclamation for World Teachers' Day.

Mayor Ross explained the purpose of the proclamation and says that October 5, 2023 is World Teachers' Day. Ross encouraged council to thank the teachers.

12. Discussion and possible action on Ordinance 2023-0918-02 adjusting minimum and volumetric water and sewer rates to become effective with the October 2023 billing cycle.

MOTION: Brad Wetzel motion to approve Ordinance 2023-0918-02.

SECOND: Jason Blanek

FOR: Blanek, George, McKenzie and Wetzel

AGAINST: none

ABSENT: Yarbrough

Motion carried 4-0

13. Discussion and possible action on Ordinance 2023-0918-03 adjusting the sanitation rates in support of the adopted 2023-2024 fiscal year budget.

Neal explained the increase is based on the Frontier Franchise contract.

MOTION: Katrina George moved to adopt Ordinance 2023-0918-03 adjusting the sanitation rates in support of the adopted 2023-2024 fiscal year budget.

SECOND: Emily McKenzie

FOR: Blanek, George, McKenzie and Wetzel

AGAINST: None

ABSENT: Yarbrough

Motion carried 4-0

14. Discussion and possible action on Ordinance 2023-0918-04 imposing a moratorium on the connection of property outside the city limits of Lorena Texas, which is also outside the city's certificated area to the City of Lorena's Water Supply System.

Neal explained the purpose of the ordinance is to protect the water in our CCN.

MOTION: Emily McKenzie moved to approve Ordinance 2023-0918-04 imposing a moratorium on the connection of property outside the city limits of Lorena Texas, which is also outside the city's certificated area to the City of Lorena's Water Supply System.

SECOND: Jason Blanek

FOR: Blanek, George, McKenzie and Wetzel

AGAINST: none

ABSENT: Yarbrough

Motion carried 4-0

15. Discussion and possible action calling an election in May 2024 for the purpose of re-allocating a portion of EDC sales tax to provide revenue for maintenance and repair of municipal streets.

Mayor Ross spoke and says he is the one that suggested this re-allocation. Ross feels the money would be better spent for the maintenance of repair of our streets. Brad Wetzel spoke and suggested tabling the item in order to research other options for the allocations. Wetzel stressed he is not against reallocating the funds but feels there may be other ways to do this. Emily McKenzie spoke and feels this change will help the city budget and also agrees that the streets need to be maintained.

FIRST MOTION: Jason Blanek motioned to call for the election in May 2024 to reallocate those funds.

SECOND: Katrina George

AMENDED MOTION: There was further discussion on the topic and Jason Blanek motioned to amend his motion to allocate .375% of the .5% EDC sales tax for street maintenance and to call for an election in May 2024 for this purpose.

SECOND: Emily McKenzie

FOR: Blanek, George, McKenzie and Wetzel

AGAINST: None

ABSENT: Kelly Yarbrough

Motion carried 4-0

The vote on the first motion was as follows:

FOR: Blanek, George and McKenzie

AGAINST: Brad Wetzel

ABSENT: Kelly Yarbrough

Motion carried 3-1.

16. Discussion and possible direction given to the City Manager for securing additional waste water capacity in the Bullhide treatment plant expansion.

Kevin Neal reviewed the options and cost for the additional capacity. There was lengthy discussion on the future needs and growth and what option would be best for the future growth.

MOTION: Jason Blanek motioned to authorize the City Manager to secure 300,000 gallons additional waste water capacity in the Bullhide treatment plant expansion.

SECOND: Katrina George

FOR: Blanek, George, McKenzie and Wetzel

AGAINST: none

ABSENT: Yarbrough

Motion carried 4-0

17. Police Department Activity Report.

Mayor says everyone is excited about the new SRO's and thanked Chief Holt and Kevin Neal for their work on that. There were 374 calls by type, 4 arrests and 337 citations issued in August 2022.

Chief Holt explained the assisting of other agencies. Lorena PD responds to high priority calls outside the city limits when other agencies may not be available. They may also get called to assist as backup with neighboring cities.

18. City Manager Report.

1. City Manager's Training September 21-22

Kevin Neal informed council he will be out of the office on September 21st and 22nd to attend training.

2. Street project update.

Rain has caused delays on the paving and they should start on Wednesday. They are hoping to wrap up the second phase of paving this week. The second change order has been submitted for drainage at Williams Road and Houston. Waiting on Atmos to move the gas line to complete the intersection at Williams and Houston.

19. Future Agenda Items.

20. Adjourn

Due to no further business the meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

These minutes were approved this 16th day of October 2023.

Tommy Ross
Tommy Ross, Mayor

Attest:

Monica Hendrix
Monica Hendrix, City Secretary

